



Effective Health Care

Comparative effectiveness of Sacroiliac Joint Fusion vs Nonoperative Care

Next Steps

The nominator is interested in a systematic review comparing sacroiliac joint fusion and nonoperative care for chronic back pain.

Due to limited program resources at this time, AHRQ will not further assess this topic. No further activity on this topic will be undertaken by the Effective Health Care Program.

Topic Summary and Considerations

Topic Name and Number: Comparative effectiveness of Sacroiliac Joint Fusion vs Nonoperative Care for Chronic Back Pain

Date: 8/15/2017

Key question from the nomination:

What is the comparative effectiveness of sacroiliac joint fusion compared to non-operative treatments for back pain?

- Sacroiliac joint pain may be the cause for chronic back pain for some individuals. Based on case series estimates it ranges from 10-30% [1-3].
- Surgical and nonsurgical treatments are available including physical therapy, anti-inflammatory medications, radiofrequency denervation, and sacroiliac joint (SIJ) fusion.
- Due to limited program resources at this time, AHRQ will not further assess this topic. No further activity on this topic will be undertaken by the Effective Health Care Program.

References

1. Schwarzer AC, A.C., Bogduk N., *The sacroiliac joint in chronic low back pain*. Spine, 1995. **20**(1): p. 31-7.
2. Maigne JY, P.C., *Sacroiliac joint pain after lumbar fusion. A study with anesthetic blocks*. Eur Spine J, 2005. **14**: p. 654-658.
3. Sembrano JN, P.D.J., *How often is low back pain not coming from the back?* Spine, 2009. **34**: p. E27-E32.